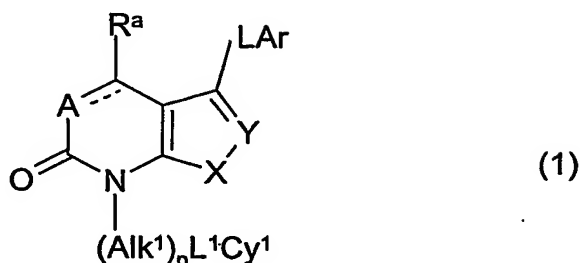


**Claims:**

1. A compound of formula (1):



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wherein

the dashed line joining A and C(R<sup>a</sup>) is present and represents a bond and A is a -N= atom or a -C(R<sup>b</sup>)= group, or the dashed line is absent and A is a -N(R<sup>b</sup>)- or  
 10 -C(R<sup>b</sup>)(R<sup>c</sup>)- group;

R<sup>a</sup>, R<sup>b</sup> and R<sup>c</sup> is each independently a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -CN, -CO<sub>2</sub>H, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>1</sup> (where R<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted alkyl group), -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHR<sup>1</sup> or -CONR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup> group (where R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted alkyl group);

15 X is an -O-, -S- or substituted nitrogen atom or a -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>- or -NH-group;

Y is a nitrogen or substituted carbon atom or a -CH= group;

n is zero or the integer 1;

Alk<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

20 L<sup>1</sup> is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Cy<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

L is an atom or chain -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Het(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>- in which p and q, which may be the  
 25 same or different, is each zero or the integer 1 and Het is an -O- or -S- atom or a -C(R<sup>3a</sup>)(R<sup>3b</sup>)- (where R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>3b</sup>, which may be the same or different, is each a

hydrogen atom or an -OH or optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group), -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)O- (where R<sup>3c</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group), -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)NH-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)C(R<sup>3a</sup>)(R<sup>3b</sup>)-, -CON(R<sup>3c</sup>)-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>3c</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>3c</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)CS-,

- 5 -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>3c</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)CON(R<sup>3d</sup>)- (where R<sup>3d</sup> is as defined for R<sup>3c</sup> and may be the same or different), -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)CSN(R<sup>3d</sup>)- or -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>3d</sup>)- group and, when one or both of p and q is the integer 1, Het is additionally a -N(R<sup>3c</sup>)- group; and

Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

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2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dashed line joining A and C(R<sup>a</sup>) is present and represents a bond and A is a -C(R<sup>b</sup>)- group, in which R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are as defined in claim 1.

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3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are both hydrogen.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein X is -S-.

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5. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein Y is -C(R<sup>10</sup>)= in which R<sup>10</sup> is -CN, -CONH<sub>2</sub> or -CO<sub>2</sub>Alk<sup>6</sup> and Alk<sup>6</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl.

6. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein Cy<sup>1</sup> is phenyl or cyclopropyl.

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7. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein Ar represents phenyl, halophenyl, dihalophenyl, (C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)phenyl, pyridinyl or (C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)pyridinyl.

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8. A compound as claimed in claim 1 as herein specifically disclosed in any one of the Examples.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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10. The use of a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of a disorder for which an inhibitor of p38 kinase is indicated.

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11. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of a disorder for which an inhibitor of p38 kinase is indicated, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof.

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